

Board, teachers have mixed feelings on contract

by Eric Elstone
 Petals and pebbles are being aimed by both sides towards the man in the middle who settled the long contract dispute between the board of education and high school teachers in Halton.
 That man, mediator-arbitrator Martin Tepitsky, ruled an award to both sides last week to end the disagreement.
 Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation District 9 is happy with parts of the settlement and unhappy about other aspects. The same story is found with the Halton Board of Education.
 Main points of the ruling are that the 1,165 secondary teachers receive a seven per cent increase in wages in the first and second years of the two-year pact; and that the board must continue to pay teachers a retirement gratuity.

Teachers seem to have gained some points with respect to the addition of new teachers, however, OSSTF President Ron Ness observed that teachers are losing more jobs than they gained in the hiring of 30 new teachers in the contract.
 In the 60 or so page ruling the board stood its ground concerning working conditions. "We've still got some management rights... they are not able to dictate the terms of employment completely," said salary committee chairman Cam Jackson.
 The top grade teacher with 12 years experience, under the new agreement, which is retroactive to September, will gross \$30,446 in the first year of the agreement and \$32,577 in the second year.
 A starting teacher in the first category would earn \$14,232 in the first year and \$15,228 in the second year.

OSSTF's Ness was disappointed with the percentage awarded in the second year of the deal. The seven per cent in the latter year gives members a real concern, according to Ness.
 Ness maintained that six months from now Halton teachers will trail teachers in neighboring boards by as much as \$600 difference in salary. "Then we're in a catch-up situation," said Ness.
 The board's salary committee chairman Jackson, a Burlington trustee, was on the other hand happy with the wage settlement in the last year.
 "We're pleased with the dollar amount in the second year and the minimum increase impact in staffing," said Jackson.
 Mediator-arbitrator Tepitsky took the middle of the road concerning the hiring of more teachers. He awarded 30 new teachers. That's about half as

many as OSSTF hoped for and twice what the board wanted to hire.
 OSSTF was disappointed with the number of new teachers. It was hoping for more because the 30 teachers will not really match the number of positions disappearing in Halton, according to Ness.
 By September 1981 the blended pupil-teacher-ratio is to be 1:17.48. Right now it is 1:17.7.
 Staffing, on the surface, is really over three years rather than two because the negotiations dragged on and the board's enrolment will decrease, said Ness.
 The settlement means that the matching of elementary and secondary teachers wage grids have been smashed. High school teachers are being paid more than their counterparts in the elementary schools and salary committee chairman Jackson

expects some pressure in the next round of talks with the elementary teachers.
 Teachers have worked in classrooms since September without a contract. Earlier this spring a strike vote nearly translated itself into Halton's first teachers' strike.
 However, teachers later voted to accept, as did Halton Board of Education, the ruling that was to flow from mediation-arbitration.
 Would teachers go for mediation-arbitration again? That depends on the circumstances, said Ness. "My initial reaction, with respect to salaries, is no."
 Board salary committee chairman Jackson would not be pinned down concerning another use of mediation-arbitration. "We approached arbitration as a means to end a potential strike situation."

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Unveil town hall fund raising plan



The \$60,000 required from Acton and area for the town hall restoration will be raised through just one year-long exciting project, which will begin during Back to Acton Days. A meeting to announce the details of the project will be held Wednesday, June 25 in the YMCA at 8 p.m.

After the meeting with service clubs and local groups and ascertaining their co-operation, a loosely-formed group has enthusiastically decided to proceed with a once-a-week draw, beginning in September.

All details will be outlined at the meeting next week.

The Business Improvement Area and Chamber of Commerce are among co-operating groups which will be adding their own assistance later, as members are convinced this kind of project will add community spirit and fun to the town, and promote the downtown shopping as well.

Groups which have already agreed to participate in ticket

selling will be keeping a share of the profits.

The structure, needs and costs of the restoration, as well as revenue-producing uses of the town hall, were outlined in a feasibility study written by architect Patrick Coles and his engineering staff, before the project was submitted to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in August, 1977.

The town hall fund-raising committee is headed by Ted Tyler, Yvonne Rosentquist and Alma Sweetman, with other volunteers. It is a spin-off from the original town hall restoration committee, headed by George Elliott.



Velocipedes anyone?

Eramosa Pioneer Days was celebrated with enthusiasm in Rockwood during the weekend. A huge parade led participants into the Rockwood Ball Park Saturday for a busy afternoon of events. Decorated bicycles formed a part of the parade. Pictured here are Brett Kingsbury, who won first place, Robert Murlison, Kevin Murlison, Ken Nightingale (not his real face) and Mark Matthews all of Rockwood.

Photo by JENNIFER BARR

Downtown mall proposal back on the drawing board

Work is underway on a third set of plans for a proposed commercial development at the east end of downtown Acton on the site of the old Force Electric plant and behind the existing A-B Foodland supermarket.

Doug Rosart of Rosart Properties of Oakville said in an interview this week his associate in the project, Neil McLaughlin, a real estate agent, is working with the firm's engineers and architects to come up with a third site plan for the proposed commercial development.

Police warning

Check invoices before paying

Police have issued a warning to Acton and area businessmen to examine all invoices sent to them carefully.

Detective Sergeant Ron Southgate, Halton Regional Police, said merchants here should be watching for what appears to be an invoice and not pay it since it is really a solicitation.

He says the solicitation is for an advertisement in a classified telephone directory.

He said the name of the firm sending out these invoices can't be revealed at this stage of the investigation because it doesn't appear the firm is breaking the law.

The firm does advise on the invoice that it is a solicitation, however, Southgate noted, this fact is revealed in the fine print, right after the portion in French which nobody reads unless they are French speaking.

Southgate said these solicitations are being sent to merchants throughout Halton and one Acton merchant who received one brought it to the attention of police. He said he suspects most others have either paid it or have simply ignored the invoice realizing it is really a solicitation.

Halton police would like to hear from all merchants who have received these solicitations, including those who have unwittingly paid it, so all information can be turned over to the OPP anti-rackets investigating team.

inside

Boys' homeowners are angry about soaring taxes and high property assessment. Details on page 3.

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Dr. Ron Trenton, an Acton veterinarian, examines the remains of a large black bear killed by a farmer after it attacked sheep herds on the First line of Erin Township, just below Five Sideroad.

Black bear killed nearby

by Gord Murray
 In an extremely rare incident for this part of southern Ontario a big, male, black bear was shot and later killed in woods just north-east of Acton after it attacked sheep last week.

The mature bear killed a lamb at one farm and was in the midst of another sheep herd last Wednesday morning when it was spotted and wounded.

Keith Aitken, who said he has never killed an animal larger than a groundhog, tracked the bear and finished him off in a wooded, swampy area off the First Line of Erin Township, just south of Five Sideroad.

The bear was first spotted when it attacked a sheep herd and killed a lamb on the farm of G. Seiz, R.R. 2, Acton. Mr. Seiz contacted livestock valuator

Calvin Aitken, Keith's father, to report the incident. The livestock valuator told this newspaper he thought it was all a joke, he's never heard of bears being in this area, but around 10 a.m. last Wednesday morning discovered it was no myth when he and his son spotted it in their sheep herd across the road from their home. Several other residents also reported seeing the bear.

Keith said the bear was obviously used to seeing humans and made no effort to leave when discovered. Keith got his .22 calibre rifle with a scope and pointed it at the bear which then moved off. The animal obviously knew what a rifle was and knew it could be hurt or killed by it.

A neighbor, Gordon Johnston, RR 3, Acton, joined

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Would be balloonists ran into some tricky winds last week. Al Russell was not able to lift off with some youngsters from Honey Pot Nursery. A few children, however, braved the breeze and sat in the gondola.

photo by ERIC ELSTONE